



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

**CONVICTED FELON IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS AND
1 MONTH FOR FEDERAL FIREARM OFFENSE**

– Texas Man Previously Convicted of Using Firearm During Drug Trafficking Crime

LOUISVILLE, KY - Ronald D. Howard, age 37, of Dallas, Texas, in Dallas County, was sentenced on December 10, 2007, to 3 years and 1 month imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for possessing a firearm after he had been convicted of a felony, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Jennifer B. Coffman, Chief Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Howard to 3 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

In his guilty plea before Chief Judge Coffman, Howard admitted that on August 22, 2005, he knowingly possessed a Marlin .22 caliber rifle, serial no. 17382355. The firearm had previously traveled in interstate commerce. Howard also admitted that he had previously been convicted in 1992 of the felony offense of using and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, a crime punishable by imprisonment for one year or more, .

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

conducted the investigation in partnership with the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department, as part of ATF's mission to reduce firearms offenses, violent crime and other threats to public safety.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

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